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**U.S. CHARGES BRONX MAN WITH TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT LAW
ENFORCEMENT BADGES AND ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING FIREARMS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARTIN FICKE, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, announced today that a grand jury in the Southern District returned a four-count Indictment charging SERGIO KHOROSH, a/k/a "Steven Gold," a/k/a "Steven McCary," with trafficking in counterfeit law enforcement badges and illegally transporting firearms across state lines.

The Indictment alleges that from about April 2004 through about May 9, 2005, KHOROSH trafficked in counterfeit law enforcement badges that bore the counterfeit trademark of a legitimate badge manufacturer. The Indictment further charges that in carrying out this unlawful business, KHOROSH used a fictitious name and address to ship packages by means of the United States Postal Service. Finally, the Indictment alleges that in about September 2003, KHOROSH purchased two firearms in

Connecticut and then illegally transported them across state lines to his residence in the Bronx, New York.

KHOROSH was arrested earlier this month after law enforcement agents executed a search warrant for his apartment in the Bronx. According to a Complaint filed against KHOROSH on the day of his arrest, law enforcement agents were led to KHOROSH's apartment when inspectors with United States Customs and Border Protection in San Francisco, California, intercepted a package containing approximately 100 counterfeit United States Marshals Service badges, bearing the counterfeit trademark of a legitimate badge manufacturer, that had been shipped from Taiwan to the United States for delivery to KHOROSH's apartment. During the search of KHOROSH's apartment, law enforcement agents found approximately 1,000 counterfeit badges of various federal and state law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Air Marshal Service, and the New York City Police Department. The searching agents also found approximately six firearms, including a Glock 9mm handgun, a Browning .22 caliber pistol, a Hi-Point 9mm pistol, a Beretta Cx4 Storm semiautomatic rifle, a Century Sporter .308 caliber rifle, and a Winchester 1300 Defender shotgun.

KHOROSH is charged in Count One with illegally transporting the Glock 9mm handgun and the Browning .22 caliber

pistol from Connecticut to his residence in the Bronx. Upon conviction, the charge carries a maximum term of 5 years' imprisonment. KHOROSH is charged in Count Two with trafficking in goods bearing a counterfeit trademark. The charge carries a maximum term of 10 years' imprisonment. KHOROSH is charged in Count Three with using a fictitious name and address to carry on an unlawful business through the United States mails. The charge carries a maximum term of 5 years' imprisonment. KHOROSH is charged in Count Four with transferring, transporting, and receiving counterfeit law enforcement badges. The charge, upon conviction, carries a maximum term of 6 months' imprisonment.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts and cooperation of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the "El Dorado" Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL A. LEVY is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.